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six headings: the Rohilla War, "Nuncoomar", the wars with the Marathas and with the French together with the internal dissensions between Hastings and his English colleagues, the struggle with Mysore, Cheit Sing, and the Begums. Then follows a summary in which the chief points involved in each matter are recapitulated; and the author, after a vigorous yet courteous attack on Macaulay's *Essay*, concludes that the documents "demonstrate the moral integrity of Warren Hastings as clearly as they do his intellectual greatness" (p. 187). The book as a whole is a clear and powerful argument to that end and aims to popularize truths too long enclosed in archives. However, without rejecting the author's criticisms of Macaulay, or minimizing in the slightest degree the importance of the documents utilized, some of the larger issues suggested by this study of British administration in India at that period will probably not be as satisfactorily dismissed by many students.

The test of the use made of the documents shows in a number of quotations inaccuracies of spelling and in some instances verbal variations. On the whole, however, the use of the documents has been legitimate. The question whether Mrs. Hastings ever received money from natives, thus perhaps stimulating charges of corruption against the governor, may never be answered. Certainly we do not find any answer here.

ALFRED L. P. DENNIS.

La Vente des Biens Nationaux pendant la Révolution. Avec Étude Spéciale des Ventes dans les Départements de la Gironde et du Cher. Ouvrage couronné par l'Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques. Par MARCEL MARION, Professeur à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Bordeaux. (Paris: Honoré Champion. 1908. Pp. xviii, 448.)

THE sale of the public lands during the French Revolution offers an instance of an old theme entirely renewed by abandoning a method of treatment which consisted in summing up in sweeping generalizations the fragmentary and inexact impressions of writers of memoirs, and, instead, undertaking to investigate in typical districts or departments the records of the actual sales. The history of the legislation affecting the sales is of itself baffling in complexity. M. Marion remarks that between 1790 and 1802 the successive laws provided for no fewer than thirty different modes of acquisition, and that payment could be made at one time or another not only in assignats and mandates but also in every imaginable form of government paper. The study of the sales is obviously of still greater complexity and must proceed slowly. Up to the present time noteworthy results have been published for about a dozen districts or departments. To these M. Marion has now added studies of the sales in the Gironde and in the Cher, two regions of contrasting characteristics, one a maritime department with Bordeaux

as its capital, the other in the interior with Bourges as the principal city. But Professor Marion's book is something more than this. It presents a careful discussion of all the legislation affecting the public lands down to the vote of the *milliard* in 1825, including the distinguishing features and the general results of the sale at each stage, illustrating them from the evidence gathered for the two departments particularly, but also from much pertinent matter taken elsewhere. It is altogether the most enlightening treatment of the subject that has appeared.

Like his predecessors, M. Marion is concerned principally with the question of the social consequences of the sale, whether it increased the relative number of small landed properties in France. In seeking to contribute towards a final answer to the question, he has carried his investigations beyond his predecessors by considering the extent to which the distribution of properties effected by the original sales was modified by subsequent resales. The number of these depended upon the extent to which the first sales were made to land speculators or to men whom the course of the Revolution prompted to sell what they may have bought to hold. One of the causes turning purchasers into sellers was the continued depreciation of such property, especially if it had once belonged to the emigrants. The explanation of this depreciation is to be found, in part, in the confusion which the constant change of the laws brought into all questions of title, and, in part, in the fact that much so-called emigrant property had been fraudulently seized and sold, and a taint of suspicion affected all property of this origin. Special difficulties surround the question of resales, owing to the lack of public records of such later transactions. M. Marion believes, however, that his evidence justifies the statement that in the departments of the Gironde and the Cher these sales were equal to one-sixth of the original sales, and that, to a slight extent, they redistributed the property in smaller lots and put it into the hands of humbler owners. In the case of the original sales of the church lands purchasers from the middle class decidedly predominated, although the proportion in the Cher was somewhat less to the disadvantage of the peasant class. In the sales of the property of the emigrants the peasants gained a more nearly equal position, mainly because the legislation of the Convention subdivided the estates and encouraged the small purchasers. During the period of the Directory the fiscal interest was uppermost, and the sales were chiefly to speculators, or to persons who saw no other satisfactory way of getting rid of their worthless assignats or mandats, or to families of the former owners. On the whole, M. Marion believes that small properties as a feature of the French landed system were strengthened, although their relation to the total was not much changed. In the Cher the larger estates were not much broken up, and in many cases the old owners were able to reconstitute their properties. The nobility as a landed aristocracy was, nevertheless, hopelessly crippled.

If the sales are to be considered as an effort to distribute the church lands among buyers likely to make a more effective use of them, and to transfer the lands of the emigrant nobles to the bourgeoisie or the peasantry, they were, M. Marion thinks, successful. As a financial operation they were a disastrous failure.

The financial aspect of the sale M. Marion explains with the most instructive fullness. He remarks that while originally the assignats were created to facilitate the sale of the new public lands, in the end the land sales were pushed forward with reckless haste to absorb the ever-increasing flood of assignats. He adds, the assignat has "dénaturée" the sale, "il l'a irrémédiablement faussée, il l'a transformée en une quasi-donation . . . une opération qui aurait pu et dû procurer à l'État d'immenses ressources; il a spolié la nation de toute la substance de son magnifique patrimoine. Instrument de salut, on le dit: mais il faut ajouter toute de suite, instrument, aussi et surtout, de ruine." To accept as exact this severe judgment it is only necessary to inspect the many tables containing the statistics of successive payments on typical sales. For example, a property, appraised at 101,000 in assignats, which at the time were worth 90,467.50, actually brought in 52,701.35, because the later payments in assignats were not worth more than from a third to a fifth of their face value. In the case of the emigrant lands there was additional loss, because they were estimated in assignats, without allowance for depreciation, although the "maximum" legislation openly acknowledged a depreciation of at least a third, and because even the early payments for these lands were made two years later than the first payments on the church lands. Furthermore, most of the payments were made in 1795, as a consequence of the law of 3 Messidor, when the assignats were fast becoming worthless.

Among M. Marion's conclusions there is one for which his evidence does not seem complete. This is the view that all classes of persons were eager to purchase the lands of the Church. He shows that many ecclesiastics, some of them non-jurors later, were purchasers; in most cases, of the glebe connected with their livings. It is also true that many purchasers became emigrants or perished on the scaffold. But he does not show that the conservatives or reactionaries of 1790 were among the purchasers. A man might be fairly radical and yet perish as a *modéré* or fly from the country in 1793.

H. E. BOURNE.

Les Projets de Restauration Monarchique et le Général Ducrot Député et Commandant du 8^e Corps d'Armée. D'après ses Mémoires et sa Correspondance. Par le Vicomte de CHALVET-NASTRAC. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1909. Pp. viii. 381.)

THE general Ducrot whose political activity is related in this book died in 1882. After having been one of the good officers of Napoleon